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August 21, 2012

The Honorable Edward Hernandez
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SENATE BILL 1246** – As Amended on August 6, 2012 – **Oppose**

Dear Assemblyman Hernandez:

The County of San Bernardino has reviewed SB 1246, and respectfully must oppose this bill. The bill would impose additional rigorous penalties and regulatory oversight for staffing ratio and patient classification system (PCS) non-compliance, and, hospital licensing violations.

Under existing state law, California hospitals are mandated to implement and maintain PCSs and staffing ratios, the practice is considered a standard of care. Additional mandatory review of such practices as outlined in this bill is unnecessary. This bill would impose non-immediate jeopardy penalties for all hospitals without specific criteria, imposing unfair and inequitable distribution of penalties.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes SB 1246. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors